

Harrison County

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Community Health Needs Assessment Snapshot

Promote Healthy Behaviors

Problems/Needs:

- Harrison County has a higher percentage of adults who smoke than the statewide average (28% vs. 21%).
- Harrison County has a lack of infrastructure for adequate physical activity. Few communities have sidewalks or paths or trails that support walking or bicycling. Of the 10 incorporated townships in Harrison County only four have wellness or fitness centers available to individuals.
- Harrison County residents have limited access to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. The county has 10 incorporated towns and only 4 grocery stores and 2 convenience stores that sell minimal selections of fruits and vegetables.
- Harrison County has a higher percentage of the population that is overweight or obese compared to the statewide average (67% vs. 63%)

Prevent Injuries

Problems/Needs:

- Between the years of 2000 and 2007 Harrison County saw an increase in rate from 10.0 to 18.1 per 1,000 children in children age 0-17 who are confirmed to have been abused or neglected.
- According to the 2010 Harrison County Health Snapshot Harrison County has an age-adjusted rate of unintentional injuries above the rate for the State of Iowa (39.7 vs. 36.3 per 100,000 population)

Protect Against Environmental Hazards

Problems/Needs:

- The average national indoor radon level is 1.3 phi/L. The average indoor radon level in Harrison County is 7.1 phi/L.

Prevent Epidemics and the Spread of Disease

Problems/Needs:

- Harrison County has an increasing rate (per 100,000 population) of sexually transmitted diseases including Chlamydia and gonorrhea.

Prepare for, Respond to, and Recover from Public Health Emergencies

Problems/Needs:

- Lack of regular communication sources with the public. Of the 4 local newspapers 3 are printed weekly and 1 is printed twice per week. A large percentage of the elderly population does not have access to internet media for risk communication.

Strengthen the Public Health Infrastructure

Problems/Needs:

- Harrison County has a much lower percentage of the population aged 25+ that have achieved a Bachelor's Degree or higher than the statewide average (12.7% vs. 21.2%)
- Harrison County has a lack of accessible and affordable public transportation. The County has one public transportation resource that will provide transportation for medical trips at \$25 per hour and other trips at \$35 per hour. The transit agency provides a taxi service in the city of Missouri Valley only with rates of \$2.00 per trip for the elderly and \$3.50 per trip for the non-elderly. The transit agency often requests and requires at least a one week notice for trips.

Community Health Improvement Plan

| Goal | Strategies | Who is responsible? | When? (Timeline) |
|--|---|---|---------------------|
| Decrease by 10% the population of overweight and obese children in grads pre-K through 6th grade in Harrison County by January 2015. | Provide educational session to cafeteria workers in all school districts relating to healthy meal preparation. | Harrison County Home & Public Health, ISU Extension | Fall 2011 |
| | Obtain measurements annually based on growth charts for all children aged pre-K through 6th grade for baseline data. | School Nurses from 5 school districts & Harrison County Home & Public Health | Beginning Fall 2011 |
| | Provide healthy cooking and meal planning sessions for families within Harrison County. | Harrison County Home & Public Health, ISU Extension | Fall 2011 |
| | Work with local grocery and convenience stores to encourage greater access to variety of affordable of fresh fruits and vegetables. | Harrison County Home & Public Health | Spring 2011 |
| | Create a Healthy Harrison County coalition that will meet at least quarterly to obtain progress reports on strategies and goals. | Harrison County Home & Public Health and other local agencies. | Spring 2011 |
| | Encourage implementation of the Pick a Better Snack and Act programs in the five school districts. | Harrison County Home & Public Health, School Administration representing 5 school districts | Fall 2011 |
| | Provide nutrition and meal preparation education to before and after school programs and child care providers. | Harrison County Home & Public Health, ISU | Spring 2012 |

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| | | Extension | |
| | Promote to families the two farmers markets in the county by sending information out in school newsletters, on the Harrison County Home & Public Health webpage, on city web pages, in newspapers | Harrison County Home & Public Health and local partners | Summer 2011 |

| Goal | Strategies | Who is responsible? | When? (Timeline) |
|---|---|---|------------------|
| Decrease by 10% the rate of confirmed child abuse and neglect cases in Harrison County by January 2015. | Train a local individual to mediate Family Team Meetings | Harrison/Shelby/Monona Empowerment | Spring 2012 |
| | Promote availability of affordable mental health services within Harrison County (sliding fee scale, telehealth, prescription drug assistance programs) | Alegent Health Community Memorial Hospital | Fall 2011 |
| | Implement a mentoring program for children and families utilizing existing programs (ex. Teammates) | Local Kiwanis Clubs, Local businesses | Fall 2012 |
| | Increase family enrollment in the Harrison County Learning for Life program which teaches parents that they are their child's first and best teacher and supports families in obtaining needed resources. | Harrison County Home & Public Health and referring agencies | Fall 2012 |